

Spring 2001

## Geography Newsletter, Spring 2001

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**UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA**

# **DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY NEWSLETTER**

**Spring 2001**

**Issue No. 7**

**Editor: Dr. Philip W. Suckling, Professor and Head**

**[Visit our departmental web page at: <http://www.uni.edu/geography/>]**

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## Faculty/Staff News

*Murray Austin*

has been chair of the College senate for the past two years. Last year, he also chaired the search committee for the College's new Dean, who is former Psychology Head Jill Wallace. Murray's wife Kitty has retired from teaching at Independence High School and is now teaching part-time at Wartburg College. Murray and Kitty continue to spend their summers at their Scottish home near Edinburgh.



From this scene, it is quite evident that *Dennis Dahms* enjoys working in the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming! Among Dennis' recent publications is a paper co-authored with Mike Applegarth, a former M.A.

student, which appeared in *Catena*. Dennis will be taking students from his Quaternary Environments and Landforms course on a field trip to Wyoming in May.

*Mike Emch* has many research projects in the works, including participation in the STORM project with colleagues in the Department of Earth Science. He also continues to conduct field projects in Bangladesh which involve environmental health issues. Mike's research routinely

uses extensive GIS and remote sensing applications. Recent publications have appeared in the journals *Social Science and Medicine* and *Environment and Planning A*. Mike's wife Sheryl Welte-Emch has a term faculty position working with UNI's Center for the Enhancement of Teaching, while also teaching in the Department of Psychology.



*Thomas Fogarty* was kept busy during the Fall semester hosting visiting professor Dr. Yury Gladky of Herten Russian State Pedagogical University of St. Petersburg. Tom and Yury jointly taught a seminar on the Geography of Russia. Tom is being promoted to Full Professor this year, joining Dr. Austin and Dr. Suckling as the only full Professors in the department. Congratulations to Tom!



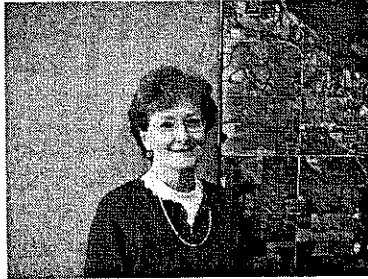
*James (Fred) Fryman* continues to teach the large lecture theater classes of World Geography each term while also handling courses in thematic cartography, air photo interpretation, and population geography. Fred's research activities continue to involve studies of college student migration. He also collaborated with Phil Suckling and Bonnie Sines on a pair of poster papers for the recent New York City AAG meeting.



Appointed to her post in 1993, *Jane Gillen* is the original secretary for the Geographic Alliance of



Iowa. In her duties, Jane experiences considerable interaction with Iowa's K-12 teachers and helps to make the GAI operate smoothly, including numerous workshops and the summer institutes.



Since 1976, *Sandra Heller* has served as departmental secretary for Geography. Of the current

department personnel, only Murray Austin has been with the department for a longer period of time. Over the years, faculty and students have become very aware of the extremely important contribution that Sandra makes to UNI's geography program!

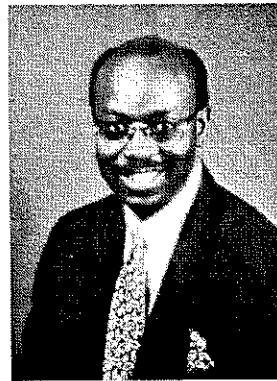


The Department is extremely proud of the recent awards that *Dave May* has received.

Last Fall, Dave was presented with the Class of 1943 Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching, which is UNI's highest teaching honor. Recently, Dave was named one of six UNI recipients of the Regents Award for Faculty Excellence. Congratulations to Dave for these outstanding awards! Within the department, Dave continues to serve as Graduate Coordinator and maintains a very active research program.

Next Fall, he will have a professional development leave in order to continue field work research in Nebraska.

*J. Henry Owusu* joined our faculty last fall with teaching responsibilities involving World Geography (in the large lecture theater), cultural geography, economic geography, and the non-western cultures general education course on Africa. Since arriving at UNI in August, Henry has had scholarly articles accepted for publication in the *Journal of Modern African Studies* and the *Professional*



*Geographer*, and a chapter in a book on *African Political and Economic Issues*. Henry's wife Marilyn and two sons joined him in Cedar Falls in December. Marilyn begins a nursing job at Waterloo's Allen Hospital in April.

*Don Peterson* is teaching our introductory Human Geography course as a part-time instructor. Don retired last spring from his teaching career at Marshalltown High School. He remains an extremely active participant in the outreach activities of the Geographic Alliance of Iowa.

For several years, *Bonnie Sines* has been a part-time instructor in the department. She routinely teaches the Maps and Map Interpretation course which is required of all majors. After Bob Clark's retirement in 1999, Bonnie took over teaching duties for the very popular Regional Geography of Iowa course.



*Tim Strauss*, who is in his second year on the geography faculty, has been kept very busy as UNI's Education Director for the Midwest Transportation Consortium - UNI Division. MTC, which is hosted by Iowa State University, provides assistantships for several graduate students. Tim is co-principal investigator, with a colleague in the Department of Industrial Technology, on a snow removal research project



funded by the Iowa Department of Transportation. Tim has scholarly articles scheduled for publication in the *ASCE Journal of Transportation Engineering* and in the *Transportation Research Record*.

*Kirk Stufflebeam* has been teaching evening sections of World Geography and Physical Geography as a part-time instructor for several years. Kirk's "day job" is with GMAC in Waterloo.

In his tenth year as Department Head, *Phil Suckling* has been re-appointed to a third five-year term as Geography Head after a formal administrative review last fall. Scholarly publications authored by Phil have recently appeared in the *AAG Newsletter* and in the journal *Physical Geography*. Phil and his wife Cheryl, have started a new hobby by entering the world of dog shows. Their Newfoundland puppy named Gracie already weighs over 100 pounds!



*Kay Weller* continues to remain extremely busy as coordinator of the Geographic Alliance of Iowa, while teaching courses involving social science teaching methods, issues in the teaching of geography, and aspects of historical geography. Kay is being promoted to Associate Professor with tenure this year. Congratulations to Kay!



### Recent Geography Graduates

Spring '00: *Glen Carpenter*  
*Mark Castenson*  
*Bradley Donohoe*  
*Beverly Ibrahim\**  
*Tim Kirchoff*  
*Lee Larson*  
*Eric Loecher*  
*Lindsay Morris*  
*Sean Peakin*  
*James Quinn*  
*Rob Sewick (posthumous)*  
*Rhonda Shaw (M.A.)*  
*Karla Suckling*

Summer '00: *Mark Alexander (M.A.)*  
*Timothy Beermann (M.A.)*

Fall '00: *Hollie Lander*  
*Ben Nietzel\**  
*Ted Schmitz*

\* *Beverly Ibrahim* won the Purple and Old Gold Award for outstanding graduating senior in geography for 1999-2000. *Ben Nietzel* will be the 2000-01 Purple and Old Gold Award winner for geography.

### **M.A. Thesis Wins First Place Award**

Each year, the University conducts a campus-wide competition to identify the outstanding Master's Degree thesis for the preceding year. For the 2000 competition, first place was awarded to Mark A. Alexander for his Geography thesis titled "Assessing the Classification Accuracy of Digitized National Aerial Photography Program Imagery: Comparison with Botanical Data". Mark's thesis advisor was Dennis Dahms. Mark currently works with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in Iowa City.

### **Current Graduate Students**

*Jeff Brown* (B.A., Univ of Southern Maine, 1999) is a second year graduate student who is working on a geopolitical thesis topic dealing with the geographies of Chinese claims in the South China Sea. His advisor is Tom Fogarty.

*Kelly Bush* (B.A. Social Science, Univ of Northern Iowa, 1999) just entered the geography graduate program in January, as a part-time student. Kelly teaches full-time at Dunkerton High School.

*Mike Carpenter* (B.A., Univ of Northern Iowa, 1999) is in his second year of M.A. studies, working under the direction of Murray Austin. With support from the transportation scholars program, Mike's thesis deals with using the hedonic price function to estimate the capitalization of large roads into housing prices.

*Raymond Johnson* (B.A. Mathematics, Univ of Northern Iowa, 1999) began his graduate program in January 2000. His research interests involve avalanche tracks in mountainous areas, working under the direction of Dennis Dahms.

*George Kuhter* (B.A. History, Univ of Northern Iowa, 1987) teaches at South Tama Middle School, while working part-time on his M.A. degree, under the direction of Kay Weller.

*Tom McLean* (B.A., Univ of Iowa, 1989) is a part-time student who is working with Murray Austin in economic geography.

*Amber Porter* (B.A., Coe College, 1999) is a second year graduate student with interests in geographic education and human geography. Amber's advisor is Kay Weller.

*James Quinn* (B.A., Univ of Northern Iowa, 2000) is a first-year graduate student with interests in GIS applications. James is working as a research assistant on the STORM project with Mike Emch.



*Drew Schaffer* (B.A., St. Cloud State Univ, 1999) is working on a thesis topic that deals with the economic geography of the popular music recording industry in the U.S. In his second year, Drew's advisor is Tom Fogarty.

*Carrie Schlichtmann* (B.A., Univ of Northern Iowa, 1997) began the graduate program this semester as a part-time student. Carrie's main interests involve GIS applications.

*Chris Simenson* (B.A., Univ of Illinois at Chicago, 1973) works full-time at John Deere. He is a part-time student with interests in economic geography. Murray Austin is his advisor.

*Dale Splinter* (B.A., Univ of Wisconsin - Whitewater, 1998) is a second-year M.A. student working under the direction of Dennis Dahms. Dale's thesis research has involved considerable field work for his topic on alluvial stratigraphy and soil characteristics of the Little Cedar Valley.

*Mark Steger* (B.A., Univ of Iowa, 1992) is in his second year of study supported as a transportation scholar. Mark is working under the supervision of Tim Strauss.

*Karla Suckling* (B.A., Univ of Northern Iowa, 2000) is in her first-year within the geography M.A. program. Last summer, she worked as an assistant for Mike Emch in Bangladesh.



The research project dealt with arsenic contamination of groundwater and its environmental health implications. Karla, sitting in the center of the above photo, is flanked by local Bangladesh villagers. Standing to Karla's left is Nushrat (Adina) Nazia, who came to UNI as a freshman geography major last fall.

*Carrie Thorpe* (B.A. Earth Science, Univ of Northern Iowa, 1998) works as a full-time technician in UNI's Earth Science Department. She began part-time M.A. studies in our program this semester.

*Dan Walsh* (B.A. History, Univ of Northern Iowa, 1998) teaches at Cedar Rapids Metro High School, while also a part-time M.A. student working with Kay Weller.

## Alumni Album

*For future issues of the Newsletter, please send your alumni news items to:*

*Sandra Heller, Secretary  
Department of Geography  
University of Northern Iowa  
Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0406.*

*E-mail: sandra.heller@uni.edu Fax: 319-273-7103*

*Rocky Agan* (B.A. 1976) has been with 3M in Knoxville, IA for 23 years. He is Distribution Analyst for the facility, which involves transportation geography issues.

*Mike Applegarth* (M.A. 1997) will finish his Ph.D. degree at Arizona State University this spring. Then, Mike will be moving to Pennsylvania in August to begin his new position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Earth Science at Shippensburg University.

*Tim Beermann* (M.A. 2000) is working for a GIS consulting firm in Colorado Springs. Tim became a "daddy" last year.

*Jim Danielson* (B.A. 1999) is teaching geography and English as a second language at Chaves High School in Houston, Texas.

*Charles Juhl* (B.A. 1970) entered the air force immediately upon graduation. During his 30 year military career, which included periods as a pilot and navigator, Charles has made ample use of such geographic tools as map reading, air photo interpretation, and recently GPS. His career has included extensive travel to southeast Asia, Canada, Hawaii, Europe, Turkey, and the Middle East.

*Tim Kirchoff* (B.A. 2000) is a graduate student in his home state at the University of Vermont. Tim attended the recent AAG meeting in New York City where he met several of his former UNI professors.

*Hollie Lander* (B.A. 2000) is teaching high school geography in Houston, Texas.

*Lee Larson* (B.A. 2000) is now a graduate student at the University of Georgia. His thesis research involves a comparison of various geographic aspects of Hong Kong and Singapore. Dating back to childhood, Lee has visited Singapore many times since it is his mother's homeland.

*Steve Long* (B.A. 1988) has been working with the Iowa City Planning Department since 1993.

*Jeff Sloan* (B.A. 1985) is a supervisory cartographer/photogrammetrist with the U.S. geological survey. He has been located in Denver, Colorado since 1989.

### **UNI Foundation Geography Discretionary Fund**

The Department of Geography now has an account within the UNI Foundation. Funds from this account will be used for a variety of departmental activities including special field trips, external speakers, and to help defray student costs at the annual awards banquet. Individuals who wish to contribute to this fund should mail their tax-deductible donation to:

UNI Foundation  
University of Northern Iowa  
Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0282

Make checks payable to "UNI Foundation - Geography Discretionary Fund".

### **Scenes from the Spring '00 Banquet in Honor of Roy Chung's Retirement**

A large turnout at last year's spring banquet was a fitting tribute to Roy Chung upon his retirement from the geography faculty after a 43 year career. Here are a few scenes from the event:



*Roy accepting his  
"retirement chair"*



*Chatting at last year's banquet are Bill Blake (B.A. 1963; M.A. 1969) and Don Peterson (B.A. 1965; M.A. 1975). Bill and Don were the 1996 and 1995 winners of Geography's Outstanding Alumnus Award. Bill's son-in-law, Mike White, will be so honored at this year's banquet.*

### **Spring Awards Banquet: Friday, April 20, 2001**

The 21st Annual Geography Awards Banquet will be held during the evening of Friday, April 20, 2001 at the Towers East Dining Room on campus. In addition to our traditional student honors, Mike White (B.A. 1986) will be honored as the 2001 winner of the *Geography Outstanding Alumnus Award*. Mike, who will be in attendance at the banquet, is vice-president of Standard Pacific Homes of Temecula, California. Students, faculty, staff and alumni are strongly encouraged to attend this gala event. For further information about the banquet, contact Sandra Heller in the department office at 319-273-2772 or send e-mail to:

sandra.heller@uni.edu



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